



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

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Milwaukee County Executive Statement on EMS Subsidy in Upcoming 2012 Budget Proposal

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele said this week his proposed 2012 budget would include the save level of funding for critical services provided to municipal EMS but would not include an additional subsidy payment. The following is his comment on the issue.

My proposed budget will maintain the current \$4.3 million in county tax levy funding to continue to strongly support the EMS services municipalities provide. The county will continue to fund municipal EMS by paying for the infrastructure which makes the system nationally recognized, including the communications center, initial and on-going Paramedic training, medical oversight, hospital coordination, medical record maintenance, quality assurance, administration, a limited billing subsidy and selling medical supplies.

The funding in question is an out-of-date subsidy that was originally paid because the county collected and turned over payments for EMS services to the communities. Now, the municipalities bill, collect and keep the payments directly without the involvement of the county, according to each municipalities' policies.

The county faces a \$55 million structural deficit, and I'm committed to introducing a budget without a deficit or a levy increase. I'm looking for ways to save Milwaukee County taxpayers money, including by reviewing discretionary spending and encouraging consolidation. Ending the subsidy accomplishes both. I hope municipalities will take this opportunity to seriously consider more consolidation to remove duplication and save taxpayers money.

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